



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ARMORED DIVISION
BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMPLEX
APO AE 09324-3054**

April 16, 2004

Headquarters, First Armored Division

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write you on behalf of the brave men and women serving the United States of America in the Army's First Armored Division. Over the past year, these great Americans have unhesitatingly and dutifully participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am proud of their unwavering efforts and deeply honored to be their commander.

Until a few weeks ago, everyone expected our soldiers to redeploy and begin their well-deserved rest back home. In anticipation of their scheduled return, many of our soldiers or their spouses made commercial travel arrangements. However, our mission now requires our soldiers to stay in Iraq for additional operations.

With this in mind, I respectfully ask that you consider helping our soldiers and their families by offering them full refunds or credits, a waiver of processing fees, or alternate travel dates. Your prompt and positive response to our soldiers and their families would reward them for a job they continue to do extremely well. On behalf of our soldiers and the nation, I thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin E. Dempsey", is written over the typed name.

Martin E. Dempsey
Major General, US Army
Commanding